The true Copie,

of a Letter vvritten to a Gentleman of *VVorship in England.*

Lamentably diſcourſing the crueltie of *Bashavv Mahomet* high Admirall to the great *Turke*: *vvho vvith a Fleete of one hundred* and ſeauen Gallies, entred the Confines of the Chriſtian Princes within the Straits *of Gibraltar.*

With his landing in *Sicil* an Iland of the *Spaniſh Kings, which hee burned and* ſpoiled, taking many Priſoners.

Alſo the taking of two of the principall Gallies of the Duke of Florence with one thouſand fighting men: The taking and burning of three great Ships in the vale of Meſſina, *and two others in the gulphe of* Venice, *one of which being a Venetian, the other a Fleming.*

Printed at London by I.D. for Thomas Goſſon: and are to be ſold at his ſhop by London Bridge Gate, 1595.

Vet. A 1 e. 56 (2)

Bought at Hodgson's sale, 1848
(lot xiii)

The true Copie

of a Letter written to a Gentleman of

Worship in England.

I assuredly discounting the cruelties of Pa-
[illegible] of concerning high Admirall to the great
Turke, whose wrath a Fleete of one hundred
and fifteen Gallies, entred the Confines of the
Christian Princes with in the Straits
of Gibralter.

With his landing in Sicill and Naples the
Spanish Kings, which hee besieged and
tooke, & kild many
Princes.

Also the taking of two of the principall Gallies of
the Duke of Florence with one thousand Fight-
ing men. The taking and sacking of three great
ships in the ende of Nouember, one of them
the Argosie of Venice, one of which being a Ve-
netian, the other a Flemish.

Printed at London by I.D. for Thomas Gosson:
and are to be sold at his shop by London
Bridge Gate, 1595.

BODLEIAN
29 OCT 1909
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The Admirall of the great Turkes inuasion of *Sicilia an Iland of the Spanish Kings*, with his other extreame cruelties ouer diuers *Nations whom he spoiled, entering the Confines of the Christian Princes in the Straits of Giblatar with* 107. *Gallies in Ianuarie last.*

RIght worshipfull, to write you the many wrongs offered my Captaine, your worshipful good friend, in this place (where neither lawes of Christians or conscience is regarded) might rather cumber you than any way mooue your content, wherefore I omit them, not doubting, but by his owne reports you haue long sithence beene aduertised of each particular accident, for that I heare to all our great comforts, by Walter Spencer of London, who arriued here with a ship of the Thames, that he was met out of the Straits long since: which newes (I may well say) was ioyfull vnto vs, for that it was verily thought, yea, and spoken ex-

preſly, that he was deade, ſo credibly beleeued by the ſodaine going hence of his ſhip: But bleſſ bee God for his ſafetie, for by his welfare our hopes are made the greater, his care will be the more of vs his poore followers, & we ſhall the more patiently beare this diſcontent, hauing here amongſt thoſe which holde vs in no more regarde than they doo beaſtes, but onely in regarde of the league betweene our gratious Queene and the graund Seignior, as hath appeared by their indirect dealings with vs, not only the Gentleman beeing preſent, but with vs in his abſence, eſpecially, ſo long as the olde Baſha w continued here, which ſtomacked vs greatly, the more for our Captaines departure, of whom he thought if he once again got him in his poſſeſſion to haue made a great gaine: But he is now gone to Conſtantinople, where it is ſaid he is very hardly thought of, not only for abuſing my Captaine and vs, but alſo for forcing Maſter Poyner his man the Purſer of the Mary to turne Turke, who is proſecuted hardly by the Engliſh men there for the ſame, ſo that for the loue the Emperour beareth to our Nation, they ſay he is like to looſe his head, ſince whoſe departure, and the comming of this newe Vice-Roy wee haue beene very

well

wel intreated, and with such fauour, as we cannot bee better with our neareſt friends, being not of our owne Nation, which kindnes is by the expreſſe commaund of the great Turke, whom he dares not offend, dreading his life.

But for all their shows of loue, God send vs the company of our good friends in England, for our owne extreamity is not such, as is the griefe and discontent of minde, to see what numbers of Christians daily are brought hither: And not long since there was brought by *Meryterojze* the Admirall 1000. able men prisoners, beſides slaues which were taken by fowre small Gallies of the Turkes, going in course on the Christian shore, where they met the the two chief Gallies of the Duke of Florence his Admirall with his lanthorne, and one other, the leaſt hauing twenty eight bankes on a side, and fiue men at euery Oare. These Gallies when they saw first the Turkes gaue them chase, and the Turkes comming with them likewise, came sodainely in sight to discrie what one the other were.

The Florentines perceiuing them to bee Turkes, were amazed what to doo, some would fight, others gaue counsel to be gone: Growing into mutinies within themselues

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the guider of the Christian Admirall cried out to the Captaine, to free his slaues, and let them fight for their liberty: But he cried to be gone, and caused them to row all they could. But his slaues being many of them Turkes would not worke, but gaue ouer their labor in hope that they should be freed by those Gallies. How so euer it chaunced, they assured them selues worse than they were, they could not be: if taken, they were sure of libertie: if not, they coulde bee no worse.

The companies as is saide, being at this odds within themselues, vp came the Gallies, and discharged their Prowes and small shot vpon them, doing much spoile vnto thē and killed many of the men, yet were most bravely answered of the Florentines, who spared neither powder nor shot, but in reasonable sort bestowed them both. But in the ende, hauing small hope to escape being so fiercely assailed, their stomacks quailed, the Turkes boorded them. In the entry, they murthered as many with their Curtleares as stoode in their waies, forcing diuers to leape ouer boord, making such massacre amongst them, that might grieue any Christian heart to heare it. In this conflict was the Christian Generall slaine, and many of

the

the better sort, who if they had beene men, as they deprowd cowards, might as well haue taken the Turkes.

Thus the poore Christians being subdued, such of the Turks which in the fight had their friends slaine, did in reuenge they so abuse them as they wished they had all leapt ouer boord to escape their tyranny, in which fight there perished many Christians, and not aboue foure score Turkes in the whole: with this bootie they returned to Argiere againe, after they had been from thence some eighteene weekes, bringing with them of Captiues Christians nine hundred and ninetie, releasing three hundred Turks and more which were slaues with them.

Amongst which was one Englishman who was Gunner in one of the Gallies, whose fauor was more than all the others, yet was he chained with the rest, vntill the Admirall *Morytetoyze* had examined him, who finding as well by others reportes as his owne, that he was taken at Genoway, commaunding Pilot the Flemming to serue against his will, he was set at liberte.

Whiles these Gallies were abroad, there arriued a Frigot here from Constantinople with Letters, commaunding as well Argiere, as all other Portes in Barberie by a

day preuented, with such Gallies as they could make to meete the Admirall of Turkey, who came with a great fleete to range the Seas, and view the Coastes of the Christians, vnderstanding the enterprise vpon the Christian shore, and learning by such meanes as they could what forces the Christians had, who they were informed had done hundred and fifteene Gallies ready to encounter them, and in the vale of Messina to meete them, to giue intelligence what they heard.

For this seruice, seuen Gallies from Argiere was appointed foure of them being *Monteroge* who was Admirall: *Manny Rays* vice Admirall: *Manny Prechipola* and *Manny Spaniola*, the chiefe of the other best Gallies, who were not long in pounding, but hasted to meete the Galha weras they were commanded, and putting ouer to the Christian shore, in the gulfe of Venice, they gaue chace to a tall ship of Venice, with whom they came and dealed them, but the Venetians would not suffer them to come a board, but most courageously resisted them, doing great spoile, yet in the ende were enforced to yeeld, and being taken and demanded how they durst breake the League betweene them and the State, whom they answered in such manner, that they were

for their labour chained and made slaues, and their ship which was laden with great wealth, bound for Marcelis was before their faces without any remedie fired.

From thence they hoyst to Calabria, an Iland scituate betweene Christendome and Barbarie, where they gaue chace to a great flie boat laden (as they iudged) with English ware, goods, & slaues; Which seeing the Gallies giue them chace, & doubting they had beene the Spanish Gallies, fearing if they were taken they should be ill entreated for wearing the English Ensigne on their top, hoysted the same ouer hastily, with their Charter Parties full of lading, and all letters that might giue them any show to bee, pr haue to doo for England: for which their rashnes when the Turkes had boorded and taken them, they were all made prisoners and chained, and their ship fired & burned, notwithstanding all their entreaties, dilating truely what they were, and what they entended; Soone after this mischiefe was ended, the Turkish Gallies had sight first of two Gallies then three, then foure more, so that they had discried nine Gallies in sight, all Gallies far bigger than the Turkes, which being well manned, now was suspected by the Turkes, they were part of that

Fleete of one hundred and three which was
said to be made out for them, and thereon re-
solued not to stay, deeming the rest was not
far, and they too weake to encounter them,
& therefore made from them all they could:
But the Thessalian Gallies hauing had sight
of them, gaue them chase, but winde failing
them, and the Turkes Gallies being light &
nimble, rowed away from them and so es-
caped.

This hazard past, they sailed to meete the
Fleet as they had directions, of whom by o-
ther small Gallies aduise were sent to Cyprus
they had the ligence, th[illegible] they made, &
in the Bay of Mesline met them, at which,
such generall reioyling after the seuerall manner
was made, that the noyse of their Cannons
& small shot was heard rumbling in the
aire by report neere twenty Leagues. This
triumph past, Mercheroyze & his three com-
panions were sent for to the Bashaw, who
gaue them great entertainement, and ma-
ny welcomes. To him when they had at
large discoursed what had hapned them
with all their fortunes in their voyage, the
night growing on, they take their leaues
for that time, each one going to his charge.
The next morning a flag of parley was put
out in the Admirall, to summon all Com-

manders

marders to come a boord: where after some parley, they had intertions what to doo in their intended action, each one hauing his charge deliuered, as well those for the seruice by sea, as those appointed for the land: To Sicilia they come, and rowed close aboord the shore, banking brest and brest, and on the Ile where they were most sure their force was least, they landed: at whose sodain cōming, the people such as could make shift for themselues, fled into the mountains leauing fewe others but aged and weake people, with yong children, which those cruell people made no consience to kill in most brutish and vile maner, seauen seuerall villages they thus surprised: Carried their ordinance from their ports, spoiled and rifled their goods, burned their townes and houses, sacked their holds & places of defence, leauing many man wiueles, and many a wife husbandles, the parents lamenting their children lost, led by these merciles people into captiuitie, and the children crying for the parents who were murthered, their vineyards burned in like maner, and what mischief was there which they did not performe? Thus by the force of those merciles people are many beggered which were of wealth and vtterly spoiled. And it is greatly

feared in all Christian Regions in these partes, that with greater forces they will make their repaire into those Confines: and by the Merchants of *Marcellus* it is commonly spoken heere, that hee gathereth a great power pretending to come for Naples: To rebate whose furious pride in conquering, the Spanish King hath sent to the State of Venice for aide against them, which the Duke will not grant in regarde of the League betweene them, without great matters bee accomplisht which is required: It is saide, hee requireth Sicelia to be assured to the State of Venice. But howe true the report of these Princes doinges is, I cannot say, for the rest I haue certaine knowledge to be true, as well by that Englishman which was present at all the seruice, which was taken in the Duke of Florence Gallies, as also by diuers other which were eye witnes to the same and returned hither with great spoile.

God of his great mercie driue the hearts of all Christian Princes, that they loking faithfully, may ioyne themselues and their forces, to relieue those miserable afflicted people, which grone vnder the burthen of their miseries: So shall God bee glorified by them, and the oppressed comforted.

Thus

Thus ſir I haue beene ouer bolde with your worſhip, which I hope you will pardon, and remember my ſuite to my friendly Captaine, whome I hope ſhortly to ſee. Argiere this tenth of Ianuarie.

Your VVorſhips in all duetie,

euer readie, R. La.